

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES FOR PROPER WOOD BURNING

SEASONING OF WOOD

To be well seasoned, wood should be cut and split for approximately one (1) year. Wood should be covered and stacked off the ground during drying and storage.

CLEANING OF STOVE PIPE

Creosote build-up in the stove pipe can produce a fire and pollution hazard. Seasoning time, type of wood, stove operation and installation can all affect this build-up. Some pipes need to be cleaned more often than others; clean at least yearly and inspect regularly.

STOVE EFFICIENCY

Always maintain a hot fire. When heating requirement is minimal, maintain a small, hot fire or use an alternative heat source. Greater heating requirements can call for a larger hot fire. Efficient combustion occurs when the chimney shows little or no visible smoke.

STOVE INEFFICIENCY

A low firebox temperature in a wood burning device results in the slow burning of wood in an air-starved condition. More air pollution and a quicker creosote build-up are the inevitable results.

STOVE PIPE TEMPERATURES

A stove pipe thermometer should be installed on the stove's flue pipe or according to the stove manufacturer's instructions.

- **LOADING:** Each new load of wood should be burned briskly at 500-600 degrees, as measured by a flue pipe thermometer, for the first 20-30 minutes to drive off moisture and creosote. Also, when loading a wood burning device, the flue dampers should be open to reduce emissions into the home.
- **NORMAL RUNNING TEMPERATURE:** In lieu of manufacturer's directions, 300-400 degrees is often suggested as the proper temperature range for the flue pipe thermometer. However, the most efficient burning temperature is being achieved when the chimney shows little or no visible smoke.

WEATHER AND BURNING

Burning in damp foggy weather or during times of air inversion causes pollutants to be concentrated near the ground. If possible, an alternative energy source should be used during these times.

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

Install one or more smoke alarms in your home and keep fire extinguishing equipment close at hand.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Call your local chimney cleaning contractor. For general information on the ecology and economics of heating with wood, call [the Center for Ecological Technology \(CET\)](#) at 586-7350.